School of Social Sciences

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"The Socio-Economic, Political and Cultural Evolution of Jejakabhukti During the Chandela's Reign (831-1315 A.D.): Historical Analysis"

Short Synopsis

Submitted in Partial fulfillment of the requirement of the degree of

DOCTER OF PHILOSOPHY IN HISTORY

To

U.P. Rajarshi Tandon Open University, Prayagraj

By

Sanjay Singh

En. No.**2100503**

Under the Supervision of

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ABSTRACT

In the pre medieval period of Indian History, a dynastic ruling emerged in the Centre of Bharatavarsha surrounded by Malwa in west, Vindhyan mountain in east and Narmada in south and Yamuna in the north of it. This region known as Jejakabhukti during at the time of its ascendency. The local Chieftain of this region emerged as a powerful dynasty in late ninth century and controlled the territory with dominance and authority and expanded beyond the present day Bundelkhand to Kanyakubja, Ganaga valley region, Bihar and Bihar. Apart from the Political supremacy Chandel rulers also patronised the religion, art architecture, local traditions and literature which showcase the rich cultural and social traditions of the region. However, history of this region remained in the fray throughout the course of history which need a fresh perspective to find and analyse the facts and resources of the dynasty. Here I will stive to interpretate the existing literature on Chandelas and bridge the gap of information due the Chandel History of India.

Keywords

Jejakabhukti, Chandelas, Bundelkhand, Gurjara Pratihara, Vidhyadhara, Khajuraho, Kandariya Mahadev, Prathvirajraso.

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INTRODUCTION

'Jejakabhukti' an ancient territory located in present day Bundelkhand spread across the border of southern Uttar Pradesh and North of Madhya Pradesh. It has a great importance in India the history, as it remained a prominent power in the north India under the reign of the Chandel dynasty. They ruled in the region for more than 350 years effectively. The ruling seems started from 831AD and lasted till 1315AD in dominance. However, this period is not a very hardline for ruling duration, but primary evidences suggests that the dynasty maintained its status till the beginning of early 14th century.

The Chandelas sovereignty extended over the river Ganga and Yamuna in the north, Narmada in the south, Betwa in the west and Vindhyan ranges in the eastern Bundelkhand. The Chandelas claimed themselves as one of the Rajput clans. There are many theories of origin prevalent around of the Chandels but there is obscurity among those theories. Mythological origin theories and Epigraphic records suggest that they belong legendary Chandra dynasty. Khajuraho inscription (954CE) points that Nannuka as the descendant of Rishi Chandatreya[1]. Baghari (1195ce) and Ajaigarh inscription(1260CE)[2] mention somehow similar descent of origin.

Initially Chandelas were feudatory of Gurjara Pratihara of Kanyakubja[3], later they emerge as independent ruler with sovereign authority. During king Yashovarman(925-950AD)[4] the Chandel has become practically independent, Although, they kept a shadow of the umbrella of Pratiharas. The Chandelas were originally Chieftains of Gurjara pratiharas. Nannuka was a ruler of small kingdom located around the Khajuraho. Later on, Vakapati, Jayashakti and Vijayshakti consolidated the Chandel power. King Dhanga was a powerful military ruler and administrator resultant Chandel empire reached on its zenith in Dhanga's reign. He also contributed to elevate art and architecture technically to its peak, and a new style of temples construction come in existence in the middle part of India.

In the Dhanga's statehood Chandela grown to be a sovereign state in the region.[5] In the swing of history several ups and down experienced by Chandel while maintaining leadership position in the North Indian political dynamics. They have fought many

battles ie. Parmaras of Malwa and the Kalachuris of Tripuri and they won most of them. But later on, in 11th century the Chandelas faced many raids and attacks from the Muslim invaders like Mahmud Ghaznavi and Muhammad Ghauri. Due to frequent attacks on the Chandelas, their power effectively came to an end by 13th century.[6]

The Chandelas were well known for their immense contribution in the art and architecture, Epitome of their work can be seen today in the various monumental constructions like- Temples, water reservoirs, palaces, and walled forts etc in many places of Bundelkhand i.e.- Khajuraho, Mahoba, Ajaigarh and Kalinjar.[7]

In all There were around twenty-three kings in this dynasty starting from Nannukadeva till Viravarman second. their combined rule span over five centuries. In Parmardi Deva and defeated.[8] later on in 1201-02CE Qutb-ud-din Aibak attacked Bundelkhand and won Kalinjar fort. Due to frequent attacks on the Chandelas, Theykeep losing their hold on region and eventually failed to keep itself immune from attackers. Additionally, weak administration and strategic paucity the empire shattered and occupied by sub rulers like - Bundelas, Baghelas, Khangars.

The Chandelas period left a huge impact on history and culture of India and it leave for us a great heritage standing intact even after 800 years. Mahotsav Nagar(Mahoba) was a culture capital and Khajuraho as spiritual capital. Monuments of Khajuraho declared as UNESCO world heritage site in 1986.[9]

Literature Review

Review of Literature is the most crucial step in research to determine scope of study and research gap. It's simply an overview of existing research work such as journal, articles, books, government publications and websites related to research. Review of literature helps us to find the research problem and future perspective of research. It also helpful in avoiding of repetition and plagiarism. I have reviewed the relevant books of following authors literature- Ray, HC (1990), Tripathi, Bhagwati Prasad(1996), Tiwari, Gorelal(1990), Mishra, Dr. Avnish Chandra(2018), Mishra, Keshav Chandra(2011), Pathak, Dr Vishuddhananda (1977), Mishra, Ramcharan

Hayaran(1965), Shrivastva, Smt.Madhu (2003), Verma, Mahendra (2003), Verma, Mahendra (2005), Pandey, Dr. Ayodhya Prasad (1890), Agrawal, Dr. Rameswar Prasad(1963). Ray, HC (1990): His book gives detail account of dynasties of dominance in early Medieval period. Chapter 11th of this book in entirely dedicated to Chandelas of Jejakabhukti. Description of Chandelas begin with investigation of origin theories prevalent around them. Then description of early rulers of dynasty and increasing influence in region and separation from Gurjara Pratiharas. By the 10th century Chandelas became a dominance power Bundelkhand. This status further elevated during the Yashovarman, Dhanga, and Kirtivarman's reign. In the last few pages of this book, details of Inscriptions provided. The writer writes on the art, architecture and sculpture along with important centre of their influence like- Mahoba, Kalinjara, Khajuraho and Ajaigarh etc. he also outlined the factor of decline this powerful dynasty. Although this book is descriptive in nature yet it will be helpful for my research.

Tripathi, Bhagwati Prasad(1996): His work is one of the original and early work regarding the historical perspective of Bundelkhand, This book supply comprehensive and holistic overview of region spanning from the ancient past to till Chandelas and thereafter. This work not only provides political snapshot but cultural aspects as well I.e.- assumption, dissensions about believes, abstract concepts of origin of Pulind (Bundel), Caste system, cultural and strategic importance of Kalinjar, geography and history of Bundelkhand. In later chapters it defines the word 'Jejakbhukti' and history associated with this word. further role of Chandelas in shaping identity of region has been highlighted. This book helped me to understand the historicity and transaction of believes, power and culture of Bundelkhand. So, such description will further be helpful to analyse the factors of changes change played in this region.

Tiwari, Gorelal(1990): Author tried to deal with the history associated with Jejakabhukti. notwithstanding this book seeks to trace the thousand years past prior to arrival of the Chandel. But chapter no. six, seven and eight are entirely devoted to the study of Chandels. The writer tried to trace the circumstances and situation just before the rise of Chandelas in region and factors that led this dynasty to become most influential and dominance between 9th and 13th century. Further it tried to elaborate

zeal of Chandelas in protection and patronizing of art and literature. So, his book is relevant to my topic of research for introduction of the Chandelas are concern. This may not be helpful to dig deeper and tracing the factors responsible for pinnacle of power and culture of the region.

Mishra, Dr. Avnish Chandra (2018): His work can be considered as original work as it gives a comprehensive account on the Chandels. The Book starts with introduction Boundaries, mountains, rivers etc, then investigate the origin theories and rising power, administrative organizational and territorial extension. It also analyse the factors responsible in the decline of Chandel dynasty, nature of rule, foreign policy, societal structure and religion in the Bundelkhand. The last two chapters devoted to art and architectural supremacy of Chandels. With concern to my research topic this book may me help to analyze Chandel suzerainty and circumstances led to cultural revolution of this region.

Mishra, Keshav Chandra(2011): His work is completely devoted to Chandelas, writer itself travelled in the region and faced difficulties in finding the relevant archives, manuscripts and direct interaction with the people to know about the folklores and their authenticity with respect to the Chandel. This book had been compartmentalized into sixteen chapters which begins with geographical description of region, origin story of Chandelas and ascending political hold , further it investigates into the administration of state, territorial extension, income sources state, occupation, society, religion, language, folk culture, literature and various aspects of art. (sculpture, architecture, forts, paintings, iconography, script, drama, music and craftsmanship. His book extensively covers all the topics related to study on the Chandelas. It may be helpful to understand the nature of state and causes of sudden rise of the Chandel dominance.

Pathak, Dr Vishuddhananda (1977): This is one of the early works concerned to political history of north India. Several dynasties which were in dominance between 600-1200AD including Gurjara Pratihara (predecessor of the Chandel). This book is of general in nature that describe Chandel administration.

Mishra, Ramcharan Hayaran(1965): His treatise is an important collection that helped me to acquaint about the culture and literature of Bundelkhand. Literature of this

region is unique and special, which is divided into three broad chapters. these chapters are Suarya khand, Vaibhav khand and culture and literature. It coves festivals, vrata, fairs, and music of Bundelkhand performed in the four different seasons of the year.

Shrivastva, Smt.Madhu (2003): His book is based on research findings of writer itself. It comprises geography, culture, tradition and public believe with respect to paintings. Nature of painting, their extent and contribution of Bundelkhand in rich painting history of India. It further gives future perspective that can be useful treatise to understand the nature, aspects and pertaining religious believes about painting in region specially concern to the Chandel's period.

Verma, Mahendra (2005): Writer is renowned personality known for his work to explore the art and culture of Bundelkhand. This book examines sculptural history prevalent in region over the time. three chapters focused on Chandel sculpture, religious inputs in idols and exotic figure of Khajuraho and their purpose to carving in this way. This book decodes the overall thoughts and mental processes involved while carving such idols.

Verma, Mahendra (2003): Architectural richness of Bundelkhand has distinct feature of pre-medieval era. This book starts with introduction of region and importance of Chedi Prashad throughout history and special focus on the Chandel architecture. Contribution of famous ruler to build monuments at various places like Khajuraho, Mahoba, Ajaigarh, Kalinjara etc. discussion on forts and mansion of this age also given.

Pandey, Dr. Ayodhya Prasad (1890): This was oldest and original book on Chandel, talked about geography, ancient names, historic sources etc. divided into two parts and eleven chapters which cover political history, administration, socio-economic conditions of Chandel. Fine arts such as architecture, sculpture and exoticism in Khajuraho has been discussed in detail.

Agrawal, Dr. Rameswar Prasad(1963): This book will help to understand the language and dialects practiced in Bundelkhand. It will be useful to know basic orientation of dialects for the purpose of interaction with people of region for research work. During research phase researcher faces famous personalities, common man and

officials of region. So, knowing Bundeli will help to exchange of views while on field work.

Description Broad Area

So far, a little work is done to analyse the various aspects of the Chandelas. This offers us a opportunity to find the un-earthen facts and hidden aspects of the Chandel dynasty. The area of study are- Society, Economic Condition, Nature of kinship, and Cultural growth of region during the Chandel period. Here I will make my study by direct observation of Cultural, Architectural and Sculpture aspects by Travelling to the and different monumental sites located in the Present days Bundelkhand. In the analytical field I will make a study on the causes of evolution of Chandela, separation from Pratiharas, territorial expansion, and factors of declining Chandel power. As of now, study on the Chandel remain fragmented and descriptive in nature which lacks deeper understanding of region History. Therefore, It will be imperative for me to carry out research on unexplored domain and give a comprehensive and rational analysis about the Chandel History.

Apart from this, here are some statements on the hypothesis that will be tested and authenticated after the result of outcome of this research. Hypothesis is a tentative statement regarding the research findings. Researcher predicts one or more expected solution based on their research interest that helps and guide him throughout the research journey. In short hypothesis act as a lighthouse for the researcher.

Hypothesis statement-

1. The Chandelas contributed immensely in the political and cultural upliftment of Bundelkhand.
2. They had a robust military system and economic backing to sustain the dynasty for more than three centuries and repelled external attacks.

Chapterisation: is one of the most important aspects of research synopsis. It divides the topic into several distinctive division which helps the researcher to focus on small area of study at a time. Chapterisation should be fairly carved so that a flow and homogeneity of topic maintained.

Chapters

Introduction

First : The Chandelas as feudal of Gurjar Pratiharas, their ambitions, extent of territory and authority over adjoining states.

Second : Political and administrative structure of the Chandelas.

Third : Socio- economic development of the Bundelkhand during the Chandel period.

Fourth : Cultural development of the region containing art, architecture, sculpture, monolithic carving and its unique features.

Fifth : Era of flourishing local Literature, Folk arts, Festivals, Lok Sahitya and folklore traditions.

Conclusion

Objectives of Study

In the view of focused study on the approved topic, I have set certain objectives that will guide me throughout the study period along with motivation and zeal in the course of research. These objectives are-

- To find out and analyse the origin theories and emergence of the Chandelas in Jejakabhukti as a leading force by late ninth century.
- To interpretate the complex relationship with their predecessors Gurjara Pratiharas and Faultline of separation.
- To Understand Socio-economic system, military strength, weakness and external attacks on Chandelas.
- To explore the rich cultural supremacy that has been flourishing at the contemporary time. This Art, Architecture, Sculpture, Music and Stone carving etc.

Research Methodology

Historical Research Method: in this method Historical Remains, Records, Antiquities Manuscripts and Relics etc explored for the information of past. In the secondary form many resources available in different libraries, Archives, depositories help the researchers to find the contextual data. These resources complemented by visiting relevant Architectural sites, Cultural region and local literature. Recent excavations, coinage, sculptures and literary treatise of the concerned period can also help in extracting the crucial details. In the Indian tradition epigraphical evidences are very crucial to explore the minute details of the administration and monarchial character of the state.

Expected Outcome of the Research

The study will help to interpretate the existing knowledge about the Chandel dynasty in the field of their Governance, Economy, Society and Culture. Along with that it will help in understanding the relationship with Pratiharas and independence of Chandel as a sovereign power in the region. The findings will also help In understanding the religious enthusiasm of rulers to build transcendental temples, ponds and other religious figurine. In addition, I will also delve into the literature and language aspect of the region and will try to find the influence of Chandel ruling over it. The outcomes are expected to remain analytical and deeper rathe rather than most of the studies done so far on Jejakabhukti History.

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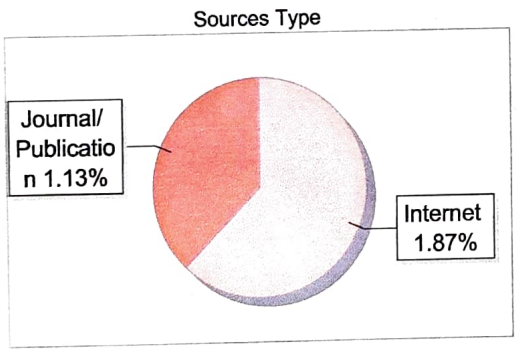

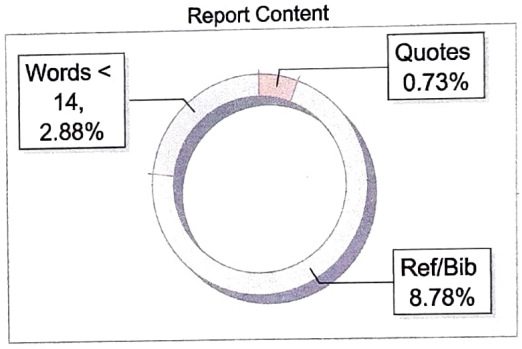

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